

REMARKS

This Amendment and Response to Final Office Action is being submitted in response to the final Office Action mailed July 29, 2005. Claims 1-44 are pending in the Application. Claims 1-6, 8-12, and 23-33 stand rejected. Specifically, Claims 1-4, 6, 8, 9, 11, 23-26, 28-30, and 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goodman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,636,529) in view of Abbas et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,810,046). Claims 10, 12, 31, and 33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goodman et al. in view of Abbas et al., and further in view of Wakim (U.S. Patent No. 6,477,178). Finally, Claims 5 and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goodman et al. in view of Abbas et al.

Claims 13-22 and 34-44 have been allowed over the prior art, and Claim 7 stands objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response to the above rejections, Claims 1 and 23 have been amended to further clarify the subject matter which Applicants regard as the present invention and Claim 7 has been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer to continued examination on the merits. These amendments are fully supported in the Specification, Drawings, and Claims of the Application and no new matter has been added. Based upon the amendments, reconsideration of the Application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

103(a) Rejections:

Independent Claims 1 and 23 have been amended to recite all of the elements/limitations of objected to, but otherwise allowable, dependent Claim 7, which

has been canceled, and allowed independent Claim 34, respectively. Therefore, Applicants submit that the 103(a) rejection of independent Claims 1 and 23, as well as pending dependent Claims 2-6, 8-12, and 24-33, has now been overcome and respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

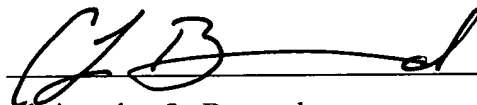
Thus, pending Claims 1-6, 8-12, and 23-33 should now be allowed, without further search, and pending Claims 13-22 and 34-44 have been allowed.

CONCLUSION

Applicants would like to thank Examiner for the attention and consideration accorded the present Application. Should Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place the Application in condition for allowance, Examiner is encouraged to contact undersigned Counsel at the telephone number, facsimile number, address, or email address provided below. It is not believed that any fees for additional claims, extensions of time, or the like are required beyond those that may otherwise be indicated in the documents accompanying this paper. However, if such additional fees are required, Examiner is encouraged to notify undersigned Counsel at Examiner's earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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